

to honor Eula Hall once again, this time by naming in her honor the road she's traveled so many years. The public is invited to attend and join Eula afterwards for a reception hosted by Big Sandy Health Care.

TRIBUTE TO SELDON SHORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a good friend and fellow Kentuckian, Seldon Short, who with his wife Janet has worked for the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association for the past 49 years and in radio for the past 55.

Mr. Short began his career in broadcasting in 1951 at WMTC-AM, a small radio station in Vancleve, KY. Throughout his time in radio Mr. Short ran the gauntlet of progress, keeping up with the technological changes of the last half century from 78-rpm vinyl records to cassette tapes to satellite delivery, while also expanding his own radio station. After Mr. Short became general manager in 1978, his small AM station grew from 1000 watts to 5000 watts, and in 1991 switched over to the FM dial.

Upon his retirement from WMTC-FM this October, Mr. Short was awarded the J.T. Whitlock Life Member Award from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association for his commitment and dedication to the field of broadcasting.

On October 12, 2006, The Breathitt County Voice published an article highlighting Mr. Short's contributions to his community. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in paying respect to this beloved Kentuckian.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Breathitt County Voice, Oct. 12, 2006]

"A BLESSING TO BREATHITT COUNTY"—
SELDON & JANET SHORT RETIRE
(By Jeff Noble)

All around the room Seldon Short could see friends. Dozens of them came out on a Friday night to say "thank you" to him and his wife Janet. Even after he suffered crippling injuries in a horrible car crash a few years back, he smiles. Even after Janet suffered debilitating illness from an operation some time ago, she remains upbeat.

And they're not bitter. Because of their resiliency, Seldon and Janet Short's faith and love of people keeps them above the rollercoaster that is life. "It does our hearts good to see all these people we've served," Seldon said during a retirement party for him and his wife inside the dining hall of Mt. Carmel High School. "You look around and it's amazing how wonderful life really is. Janet and I will be married 50 years next June. We've been blessed with four children and six grandchildren. And we have a lifetime of memories. God's been good to us, and because of that, we keep going."

Janet gently squeezed her husband's hand as she spoke of the outpouring of love their friends provided at the party. "It's so nice to see all these people. People I've worked with, people who helped babysit for my children when I was on the radio, people who we love and cherish. I'm just thankful the Lord has seen us through during this time, and some-

times, it was rough." Then she looked admiringly at Seldon and spoke softly with a smile. "Seldon, he's a great guy. I don't know what I'd do without him. He's wonderful. I can't brag on him enough."

Neither could some in the room, like his old friend Robert Cundiff. "Seldon loves people. But he is also a shy person," getting a laugh out of the crowd as he spoke. He then told a story about his old buddy, who, like Cundiff, graduated from Mt. Carmel and the former Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute (now Kentucky Mountain Bible College). "For instance, in the cafeteria, Seldon was so shy, he wouldn't even say 'Pass the biscuits.' Can you imagine Seldon doing that?" It was a remark that brought the house down. Cundiff then thanked Seldon for being the "founding father of the Mt. Carmel Former Students Association—our alumni association. Thank you, my old friend."

Not to be outdone, several of Janet's friends and co-workers came to bring yellow roses to her, and to spin some stories about Mrs. Short and her work she and her husband did at WMTC Radio. "While I played piano, I remember Janet reading poems over the radio station," said Donna Woodring. "Sometimes they would be quite inspiring, sometimes they would be whimsical. She was always delightful." Carlene Light recalled another moment. "Janet loved to cook, and she loved to watch you eat. That's why I'm overweight." After getting laughs from the audience, Carlene went on to say, "What's so great about this couple is that Seldon and Janet are focused on people." It was a statement echoed by Faith Amspaugh. "In fact, my children, who are all grown, still call them Uncle Seldon and Aunt Janet."

For many years, Seldon and Janet wore many hats working for the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association. He was with KMHA for 49 years, while Janet worked for 40 years. Of that time, Seldon served as Vice-President of KMHA, as well as positions on the Jackson Kiwanis Club, the Jackson Independent School board, the pastor of two churches (Wolverine for 23 years and Bach Memorial for 18 years), and as a board member of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association (KBA). From his humble beginnings as a part-time announcer in 1951, Seldon returned to WMTC full-time in 1954-55. After going to Asbury College, he came back for good to the radio station in 1958.

He and Janet had a heart for radio, and remained with the station for many years. Seldon became General Manager of WMTC in 1978, saw the station's signal on 730 AM go from 1,000 watts to 5,000 watts, and was at the creation of WMTC-FM, as it went on the air at 99.9 in 1991. "I did a lot of live programs back then. There was no tape as we know it today. Recorded shows were on big, heavy 78 RPM vinyl discs. Then we got old-fashioned recorders that weren't plastic, but paperback. Then we went to reel-to-reel tape recorders, cassette recorders, CD's and satellite delivery. Today is all computerized." Then Short pointed his finger up at the sky and said, "What hasn't changed is the commitment to serving people. I still think trying to be of service to the area you cover is still the most important thing you can do as a broadcaster. You still need to respond to their wants, their needs, their requests and their hunger for information."

That same hunger for service came to his successor, Jennifer Cox. "The Shorts welcomed me to WMTC. I had never worked at a family environment. And I learned from a reliable source." Cox, who succeeded Seldon as General Manager in June of this year, got misty-eyed when she spoke of him. "He did live radio and has gone through the computer age. Everything I know he taught me. Because of Seldon and his vision, we at

WMTC are where we are today. I thank him for his leadership and kindness." At that point, Cox presented Seldon with the J. T. Whitlock Life Member Award from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association. "J. T. was a great friend of mine," Seldon said of the late, long-time Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the KBA. "He was a great friend of the small broadcaster, like us, and he had a great heart for people, and serving those people who listened to him."

As some 50 of their friends munched on cake and refreshments in the dining hall, the Shorts listened as the current President of KMHA reminded the crowd that despite their adversities, Seldon and Janet were not bitter about their experiences. "Both of them are not quitters," said Dr. Philip Speas. "The Shorts are made out of good stuff. They're made of good metal. They've been a real illustration of patience. They are a blessing to Breathitt County."

Toward the end of the reception, Seldon got up out of his wheelchair and looked at the room again. His friends, like Rev. and Mrs. Wilfred Fisher, and his children and grandchildren, were all standing and applauding. The cheering died down. His wife was in tears. He was too, as he softly told them, all his friends for life, "Thank you. God has really blessed us through these long, wonderful years, and all of you have graced us with your friendship. Despite our difficulties, we'd do it all over again. God's grace has been sufficient. It's been a good life."

THANKSGIVING 2006

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, next week, Americans across our great land will be celebrating one of our oldest and most beloved holidays, Thanksgiving.

What a great and glorious holiday this is—a truly and uniquely American holiday. It is a day for giving thanks. A day devoted to family, to country, and to God. A day of eating turkey, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, dressing, and pumpkin pie. It is a day of parades, football games, and the beginning of the Christmas holiday season.

It is a day of family gatherings. Unfortunately, in too many homes this year, and as in the past 5 years, there will be too many empty seats at the dinner table. I hope everyone listening will join me in praying for our sons and daughters who are in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, in praying for the eternal salvation of those who have died in these costly conflicts, and in praying for the speedy recovery of those who have been wounded. While we cannot hope to fill those empty chairs, we can hope that our prayers and our love and support will help to ease the sorrow at those tables.

Even with the turmoil of the past year and with so many of our sons and daughters in faraway lands, we still have so much for which to be thankful.

We are thankful for the Pilgrims—that courageous group of men and women who, in 1621, left their homes, crossed a mighty ocean, and settled in a strange, unknown wilderness so they could go to church so they could worship God as they pleased.

After months of privation, suffering, hunger, sickness and death, these men and women had a great feast to thank